Progress Report
UNEP/GEF IW:LEARN

Q1 Outputs (January - March) and
Planned Activities for 2008

IA Lead: UNEP

Project Manager: Sean Khan
PAL: SEA START RC, Chulalongkorn University

The activities of UNEP/GEF IW:LEARN can be divided into three main outputs, comprising managing the GEF IW:LEARN information system (Output A1), ICT assistance provided to GEF IW projects (Output A2), and organising the Caribbean Inter-linkages Dialogue Workshop for a regional learning exchange focusing on data management (Output B1).

Refer to the hyperlinked Work Plan (Fig. 1) for more details regarding the scheduling of all 2008 tasks.

1. Main Outputs for Q1
[activity/task], [planned release date]

Outputs planned for Q1 (extracted from 2008 Work Plan) are described below.

Output A1: Designed and operating GEF IW:LEARN information system on the internet that serves as a repository of IW project data and information and, a bi-directional medium for disseminating and accessing information resources of benefit to projects and the IW community.

Fig. 1: UNEP/GEF IW:LEARN 2008 Work Plan

> **Activity A1.1: Design, launch and maintain the GEF IW:LEARN Information system, Jan 2009**
> - 1.1.1 Improve dead link report, May 2008
>   *Status:* possible solutions identified, evaluation underway.
>
> - 1.1.5 General Operations, Jan 2009
>   1.1.5.1 Investigate options for improved administrative arrangement, March 2008
>   *Status:* Currently out sourcing server administration, maintenance and technical back stopping on Plone development through several retainer based contracts to further lower IT support costs and maintain a high responsive rate to projects using the website toolkit and IWLEARN website. GEF IW:LEARN will continue to use iland.com Internet Solutions for hosting its website and services, with possibility of relocating to RONA in early 2009; server uptime and connectivity has proved excellent. Additional temp hires for technical and administrative support being are being explored by GEF IW:LEARN through the Bangkok based sub project (SEA START RC).
>
> - 1.1.5.3 Develop a marketing plan, March 2008
>   *Status:* marketing plan is under discussion (it was also addressed during drafting of Sustainability Plan – see 1.1.5.6 below)
>
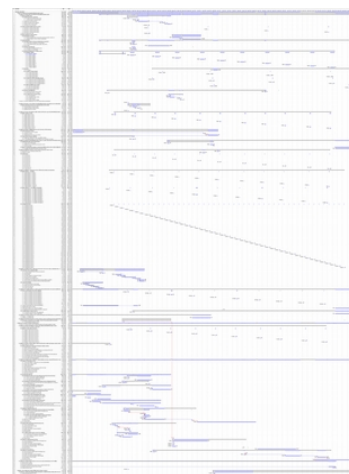> - 1.1.5.4 Develop and implement an e-bulletin system, Dec 2008

Status: regular monthly e-bulletins are now released to the IW community (approximately 1000 subscribers), with the first edition dispatched in November 2007 and new subscriptions self registered each month (~15/month). In addition, their has been an increase in the number users sending feedback to GEF IW:LEARN as a result of the e-bulletin service.

- 1.1.5.6 Develop Sustainability Plan, Sept 2008
  Status: drafted in Feb/March 2008, submitted to the IW:LEARN SC for consideration.

Activity A1.4: Develop a search engine for the GEF IW:LEARN information system that can access information held in various project and stakeholder websites, April 2008

- 1.4.1 Improve interactive aspects of accessing information on the website, April 2008
  Status: specifications for interactive search drafted and finalized, with interface undergoing evaluation. Note that this represents an additional refinement to GEF IW:LEARN's search engine; while initially implemented using the Google-based customised search engine, the refinement involves integrating EcoMundus content into search results while providing a more responsive Ajax-programmed interface for users and automatic clustering of search results to produce meaningful categories of information. The model is available at: http://search.ecomundus.net/unep-webapp

Activity A1.5: Produce and maintain an online calendar of IW events as part of the GEF IW:LEARN information system, Dec 2008
- Update of calendar events, Dec 2008
  Status: calendar of events established and actively maintained and accessible at http://www.iwlearn.net/calendar

Activity A1.6: Develop a multilingual glossary and/or thesaurus of IW terminology, July 2008
- Produce Water Thesaurus (tentative), March 2008
  Status: currently being addressed through a consultation with Beaver Woods Associates.

Activity A1.8: Implement a disaster recovery system (e.g. back-up or mirror server), Dec 2008
  Status: Fully operational with enhancements planned this year.

Activity A.1.9: Maintain a meta-database of the GEF IW project portfolio and stakeholders, Dec 2008
- 1.9.1 Update databases – via mailout, Dec 2008
  Status: updating of databases is a key long-term process. Communication with projects is ongoing to update their project profiles in the GEF IW:LEARN Project Database (http://www.iwlearn.net/iw-projects), including uploading of project outputs, and also the Contacts Database (http://www.iwlearn.net/con-info/contacts). With the launch of the e-bulletin service and increased uptake of the GEF IW:LEARN website toolkit, projects are more responsive.

- 1.9.2 Update databases – new additions to GEF pipeline, Dec 2008
  Status: new additions to GEF pipeline are updated.

- 1.9.3 Vet/update RSS feeds, Dec 2008
  Status: these are regularly monitored and updated.

Activity A.1.10: Deploy at least 2 collaborative tools (such as list servers, blog or syndication tools) to encourage dialogue among GEF project practitioners and to support implementation of GEF IW:LEARN structured learning activities, March 2008

- 1.10.1 Launch Course Catalogue module, March 2008
  Status: prototype has been completed as anticipated and evaluation by UNOPS/PCU is underway with the launch date expected in April/May 2008.

- 1.10.2 Launch Africa Module, January 2008
  Status: It is anticipated that the module will be released soon, with delays related to drafting of module specifications; Miscommunication between UNOPs/PCU UNEP. TORs for a consultant to expedite the development of the Africa module is currently being drafted by UNOPS.
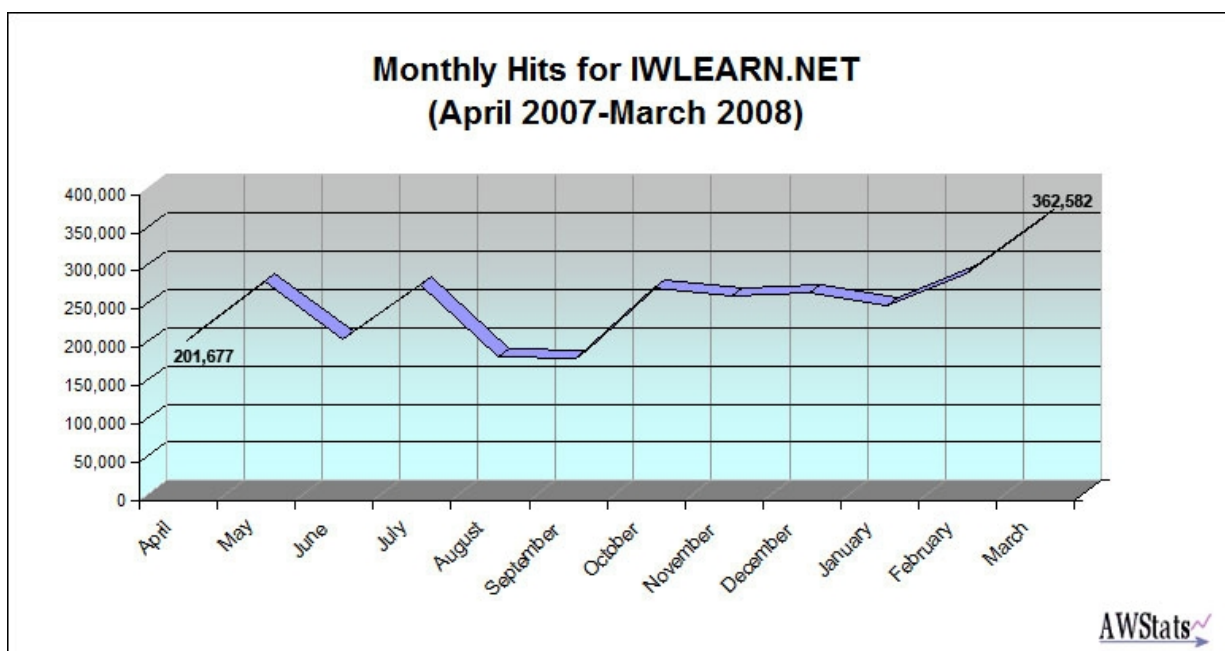
Activity A1.11: Compile and make accessible selected data and information on key topics identified through GEF IW:LEARN surveys, feedback from projects and IW conferences, Jan 2009
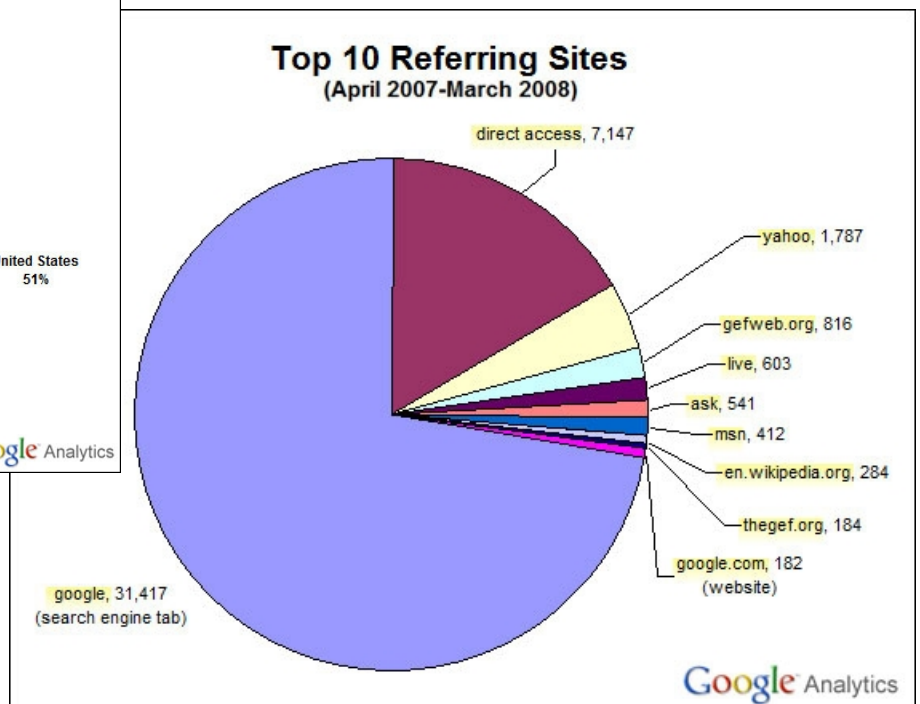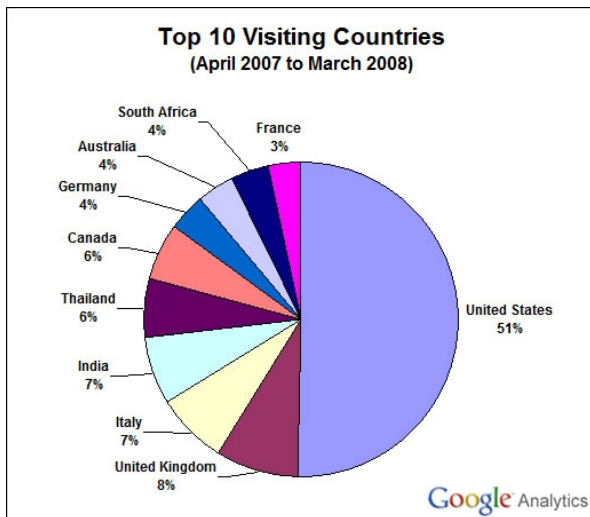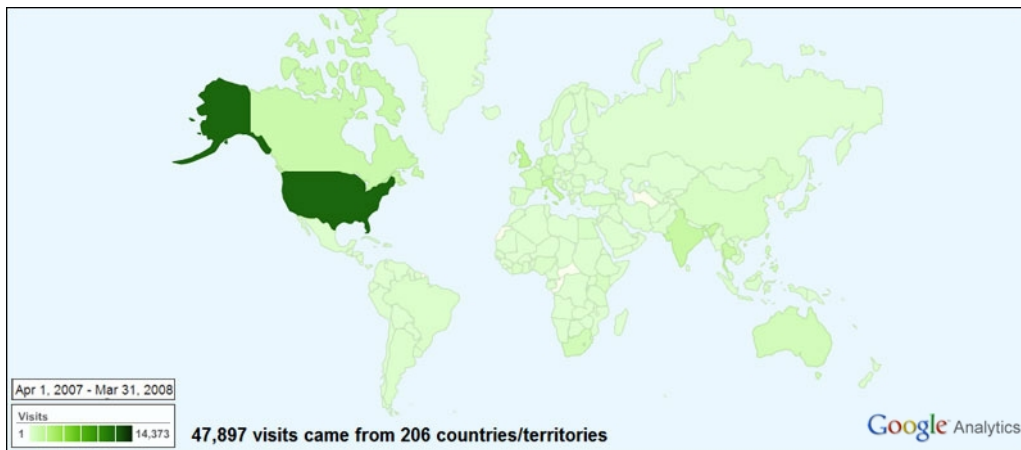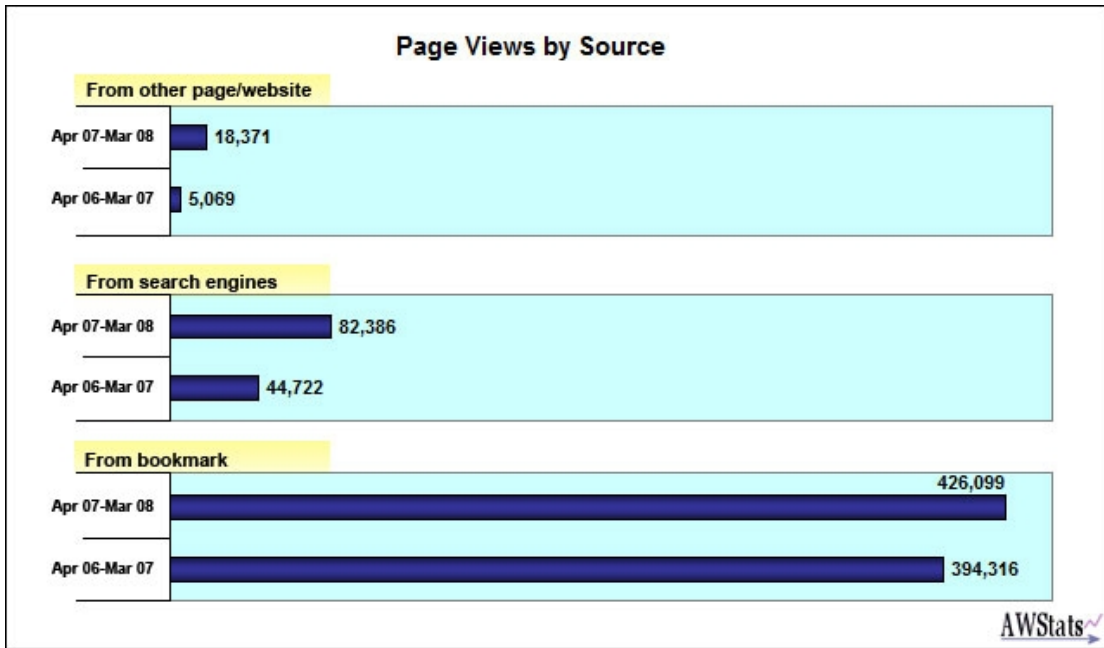
- 1.11.1 Enter new information sources into ecoMundus, Dec 2008
  Status: this process is underway (see http://search.ecomundus.net/unep-webapp). An MoU with GEMS Water to compile various information sources on the internet is under implementation.

- 1.11.2 Compile and enter Regional Seas reports into IWLEARN.Net, March 2008
  Status: All Regional Seas reports have been scanned and made machine readable through the use of OCR compatible PDF files. These are expected to be uploaded to the website with associated metadata in the coming weeks. In turn, these resources will be searchable by the GEF IWLEARN search engine in addition to internet web crawlers (e.g. Google)

- Integrate IWSEA Roster into website, July 2007
  Status: this task is on hold pending development of new GEF IW:LEARN search engine (see activity 1.4.1 above).

Activity A1.13: Develop and operate an archive/repository service for GEF IW project data and information, May 2008

- 1.13.1 Put in place a systematic process to gather "needed" data and information from projects, Feb 2008
  Status: integrated folders within project database for archiving project outputs. Implementation completed and project outputs being uploaded on a continuous basis.

Fig.2-7: Graphs and charts showing visitor statistics for IWLEARN.NET.

Page Views by Source

From other page/website
- Apr 07-Mar 08: 18,371
- Apr 06-Mar 07: 5,069

From search engines
- Apr 07-Mar 08: 82,386
- Apr 06-Mar 07: 44,722

From bookmark
- Apr 07-Mar 08: 426,099
- Apr 06-Mar 07: 394,316

AWStats

Apr 1, 2007 - Mar 31, 2008
Visits 1 — 14,373
47,897 visits came from 206 countries/territories
Google Analytics

Top 10 Visiting Countries
(April 2007 to March 2008)

- United States 51%
- United Kingdom 8%
- Italy 7%
- India 7%
- Thailand 6%
- Canada 6%
- Germany 4%
- Australia 4%
- South Africa 4%
- France 3%

Google Analytics

Top 10 Referring Sites
(April 2007-March 2008)

- direct access, 7,147
- yahoo, 1,787
- gefweb.org, 816
- live, 603
- ask, 541
- msn, 412
- en.wikipedia.org, 284
- thegef.org, 184
- google.com, 182 (website)
- google, 31,417 (search engine tab)

Google Analytics

Output A2: ICT assistance provided to GEF IW projects

Activity A2.2: Develop and maintain a ICT help section within the IW:LEARN information system, Dec 2008

- 2.2.1 Add Plone resources from IWSEA to Toolkit section, Nov 2007
  Status: key information resources have been migrated to the Toolkit section, and the latter will itself undergo further development as per activity 2.2.2 below.

- 2.2.2 Update ICT section with new FAQs etc, Dec 2008
  Status: entire ICT section will be modified and updated, to also include non-English material. This work is expected to commence in April.

Activity A2.3: Develop a website toolkit to enable any GEF project to deploy and manage a project website and exchange information with other projects and stakeholders, Feb 2008

- 2.3.1 Set up mailing list for Toolkit users, Feb 2008
  Status: Anticipated for completion in April 2008.

Activity A.2.4: Conduct at least 2 regional ICT capacity building workshops among GEF IW projects to enable projects to utilise the Website Toolkit and associated utilities, Feb 2009

- 2.4.2 Asia Workshop follow up, May 2008
  Status: new websites have been developed for several projects including the GEF Livestock Waste Management Project in East Asia Project (now actively used by the project), GEF Ningbo Cixi Wetland Project (80 percent complete awaiting new design skin) and Guarani Aquifer System Project (awaiting skin/design specifications from project). Other projects that are actively being followed up include Shandong Second Environment Project, Liaoning Medium Cities Project, and Hai Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Project.

- 2.4.3 Organise ICT mini-Workshop for LAC, June 2008
  Status: the workshop is planned for 2 – 6 June 2008, to be held at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, USA.

- 2.4.5 Organise follow up Data/Networking Workshop in Asia, May 2008
  Status: the workshop is planned for 5 – 9 May in Vientiane, Laos, to be hosted by the MRC Secretariat.

Activity A2.5: Conduct periodic surveys to assess user needs and effectiveness of ICT utilities, Dec 2008

Status: surveys routinely conducted at workshops, and to be requested during updating of project profile database.